

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 9195

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (JONES, J NORVILL AND ASHWORTH, GEORGE W)

SUBJ: STAFFDEL JONES/ASHWORTH

REF: TEHRAN 8947

1. STAFFDEL JONES/ASHWORTH HAD FULL THREE DAYS OF DISCUSSION WITH US ON U.S./IRAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. HAVING BEEN INFORMED IN WASHINGTON OF A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS, E.G., CO-PRODUCTION DECISIONS AND IRANIAN ACTIVITIES IN OMAN, THEIR QUESTIONS WERE POINTED AND NUMEROUS. STAFFDEL MET WITH GENERAL TOUFANIAN, BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER AND NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT CLARITY, BUT OTHERWISE CONFINED THEIR TALKS TO MISSION PERSONNEL.

2. STAFFDEL RAISED SEVERAL ISSUES WHICH WE BELIEVE STATE AND DOD MAY HEAR MORE ABOUT DURING COMING MONTHS:

A. ABILITY OF IRANIAN MILITARY TO ABSORB SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT ON HAND OR BEING CONSIDERED FOR PURCHASE.

B. DESIRABILITY OF CO-PRODUCTION OF SOPHISTICATED US EQUIPMENT IN IRAN.

C. GROWTH IN NUMBERS OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL AND DEFENSE CONTRACTORS IN IRAN.

D. IMPLICATIONS FOR US OF OUR GROWING MILITARY INVOLVEMENT WITH IRAN AND NEED FOR A COHERENT POLICY GOVERNING OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN.

E. DESIRABILITY OF ANNULING IMPLIED US COMMITMENT TO IRAN UNDER

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ARTICLE 1 OF 1959 AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION.

F. POSSIBLE IRANIAN TRANSFERS OF US-SUPPLIED ARMS TO PAKISTAN, OMAN AND KURDISH REBELS WITHOUT US APPROVAL.

G. USE OF US-SUPPLIED IRANIAN ARMS IN OMAN BY IRANIAN TROOPS CONTRARY TO US LAW, I.E., A SITUATION THEY SEEMED TO THINK WAS COMPARABLE TO TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS, WHICH IT OBVIOUSLY IS NOT.

H. FUTURE DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS F5S AFTER ARRIVAL OF F5ES.

3. STAFFDEL WILL PREPARE A REPORT ON MIDDLE EASTERN TRIP BEFORE END OF NOVEMBER. THEY INDICATED CONTENTS WOULD BE CHECKED BY STATE AND DOD FOR PROPER CLASSIFICATION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A COPY OF REPORT WHEN IT IS RECIEVED BY DEPARTMENT.

4. STAFFDEL ASKED FOR COPIES OF ANY MEMORANDA RELATING TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S ASSURANCES TO SHAH IN MAY 1972 REGARDING SUPPLY OF US MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL. THEY ALSO ASKED FOR ANY INTERPRETATION OF 1959 AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION. WE SAID THEY SHOULD CONTACT DEPARTMENT TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER SUCH DOCUMENTS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE.

HELMS

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